



# Focus on Aboveground Storage Tanks

From Ecology's Spill Prevention, Preparedness and Response Program

## Does your facility need to comply with Washington State's Oil Spill Prevention and Contingency Planning Standards?

If you have or are planning to install an **aboveground storage tank** (AST) to store petroleum products, here are the most important questions to ask yourself when you're wondering if your facility needs to comply with the Washington State oil spill prevention and contingency regulations:

### Where is your facility located?

Is your facility located on or near the navigable waters of the state or will a spill from your facility pose significant threat to the navigable waters of the state? Taking a look at topographic maps can help you determine if this is so. If this describes your facility, then ask yourself the next question.

### How is oil delivered or distributed at your facility?

If your facility transfers oil or petroleum products to or from a tank vessel, such as a barge or oil tanker, or to or from a pipeline, then your facility is subject to Washington State's oil spill regulations (Chapters 173-181 and 173-180A-D WAC). You are required to prepare an operations manual, a training and certification program for your operators, and spill prevention and contingency plans. If the fuel is delivered to your facility via tank truck or by tank rail car, then your facility does not meet the current definition of a regulated facility and you do not need to comply with these regulations. Please contact the Spill Prevention, Preparedness and Response program at the Department of Ecology for further information at 360-407-7455.

### Spill Prevention, Containment and Countermeasure (SPCC) Plan Requirement:

Your facility may still be subject to the SPCC plan requirement even if it is exempted from the state oil spill regulations. The U.S. Environmental Protection Agency administers the Oil Pollution Prevention regulation, 40 CFR Part 112. This regulation requires oil-handling facility owners to prepare SPCC plans to both prevent oil spills and to respond should a spill occur at their facility. This regulation has been revised, and the revisions became effective on August 16, 2002. However, facilities have until August 17, 2004 to revise their plans. If you already have prepared an SPCC plan, you may need to familiarize yourself with these revisions to remain in compliance. For more information on the Oil Spill Programs at the EPA visit their web site, <http://www.epa.gov/oilspill/index.htm>, or call the EPA Region X Oil Programs Coordinator at 206-553-1671.

### Other Oil Storage Requirements:

All the facilities regulated under the State's oil spill regulations are required to inspect their aboveground storage tanks in accordance with American Petroleum Institute Standard 653 (API 653). Also, all ASTs in Washington are subject to the Uniform Fire Code (UFC), which has been incorporated by reference in Washington state regulation. The enforcement of the UFC is carried out by your local fire district. The enforcement of the UFC is carried out by your local fire district. For more information on the UFC and its requirements go to the International Fire Code Institute web site, <http://www.ifci.org/>.

For information regarding **underground storage tanks**, please follow this link, <http://www.ecy.wa.gov/programs/tcp/ust-lust/tanks.html>

*If you required this publication in an alternative format, please contact the Spills Program at (360) 407-7455(Voice) or (TTY) at 711 or 1-800-833-6388*